

INFORMATION AND DISPLAY BUREAU AT ELLIS ISLAND.

APRIL 8, 1904.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. DILLINGHAM, from the Committee on Immigration, submitted the following

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 4118.]

The Committee on Immigration, to whom was referred the bill (S. 4118) authorizing the Commissioner-General of Immigration, under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor, to establish in connection with the immigrant station at Ellis Island an information and display bureau for the purpose of aiding the distribution of immigrants, etc., have carefully examined the same, and it is reported back to the Senate with a recommendation that it pass when amended as follows:

On page 1, line 10, after the word "should," strike out the word "locate" and insert in lieu thereof the word "settle."

On page 2, line 3, after the word "and," strike out the word "costs" and insert in lieu thereof the word "cost;" and in line 5 of page 2, after the word "the," strike out the word "costs" and insert in lieu thereof the word "cost."

On page 2, line 13, after the words "Commissioner-General of Immigration," insert the words "under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor."

On page 2, line 18, after the word "present," insert the word "to."

On page 3, lines 7, 8, 9, 10, and 11, strike out all after the word "them" in line 7, down to and including the word "him" in line 11.

On page 3, line 13, after the word "immigration," insert the words "under the direction of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor."

On page 3, line 15, strike out the words "subject to removal" and insert in lieu thereof the word "remove."

In considering this bill, the committee gave careful attention to statements and recommendations concerning the distribution of admitted

aliens made by the Commissioner-General of Immigration in his last annual report. He says:

DISTRIBUTION OF ADMITTED ALIENS.

By far the most important recommendation I have to make, however, is for legislation directed to the distribution of those aliens who are admitted. The menace to our security and good order comes not so much from the number of aliens introduced as constituent elements of our population, nor even so much from their individual deficiencies, however serious, as from their congregation in alien colonies, usually in our great cities, where the competition for the means of subsistence is most strenuous, the contrasts between wealth and poverty most conspicuous and most productive of discontent and resentment against such inequalities and the civilization which makes such contrasts possible, and where temptations to vice are most numerous.

These colonies, thus unfortunately located, continue alien in language, thought, and feeling. Their members not only pursue nonproductive or but slightly productive occupations, or else lower the scale of decent existence by lending themselves to foster the avarice of "sweat-shop owners," but deprive the employers of labor throughout the country of much-needed assistance that would bring good pay to the laborer, profit to the employer, and benefit to the country at large. The matured crops of the West and South may be lost for lack of harvesters, while the street organs, push carts, and sweat shops of the cities are sufficient to accommodate their alien followers. While suffering and envy of the rich in the cities are educating anarchists, opportunities for making homes are going to waste elsewhere.

I know of nothing more important at this time for the consideration of Congress than legislation to break up these alien colonies, to distribute their members where they can find needed and useful employment and supply equally useful labor. There is no specific against radical views and lawless tendencies equal to profitable employment and the possession of a home.

I therefore urgently recommend that legislation be enacted, accompanied by sufficient appropriations for the erection of buildings at the various ports of entry, with a view to the dissemination among arriving aliens by Government or State officers of information that will enable them to locate at those places in this country where their labor is required and where they can have the best opportunities of making homes for themselves and their children.

In the absence of precedent all legislation upon this subject must of necessity be experimental, but it is clear that such legislation is needed; and in the light of present knowledge the provisions in this bill seem to the committee to be peculiarly well adapted to present needs. The bill meets the approval of the Commissioner-General of Immigration, and if it accomplishes even in a small degree the purpose for which it was drawn it will aid in solving one very perplexing feature of the immigration problem.